

to discuss how the School Readiness Act will adversely affect minority children. What we are talking about here is Head Start. Of the 900,000 children in Head Start, 300,000 are Hispanic. This is something very near and dear to my heart. I am a former Head Start child.

The Republicans argue that the School Readiness Act will not allow States to supplant Federal funding, but, in fact, CRS, the Congressional Research Service, indicates that that is just the case.

Why should we care? I will tell my colleagues that every kindergarten, first grade and second grade teacher in my district that I have visited in every school, and I have gone to all of them, has told me that the number one thing that the Federal Government can do at the education level is to fund Head Start, to give our children the ability to start even at the starting line of education.

So why, why would the Republicans take a program that is working and try to change it, to put more barriers in front of our minority children?

OPENING AMERICAN MARKETS TO IMPORTATION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

(Mrs. EMERSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, today we may be voting on a measure to open American markets to the reimportation of prescription drugs. I say we may be voting because, as a Member of this House, I have never seen an issue so important to me, to our colleagues, and to the American people treated so unfairly.

Access to affordable prescription drugs is too important an issue to only be debated on the House Floor for 1 hour.

Under the rule formulated for the debate on reimportation, the Speaker may pull this bill at any time. If that happens, Americans may remain under the thumb of the pharmaceutical industry for the foreseeable future.

In America, breast cancer kills over 40,000 people, especially women, each year. Mr. Speaker, a bottle of Tamoxifen used to fight breast cancer costs \$360 in the United States. It costs \$60 in Germany. How long will American women who cannot afford Tamoxifen continue to subsidize those in Europe who can? And if the drug companies have their way in this debate, Mr. Speaker, the sorry status quo will persist. Lives will be shortened, lives will be lost. This is bad process, bad form, and a bad rule. Our seniors deserve better.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF NEW YORK CITY COUNCILMAN JAMES DAVIS

(Mr. TOWNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart as New York City lost a true public servant yesterday in a violent shooting at City Hall.

Councilman James Davis of Brooklyn was an intelligent, passionate, and energetic young man who had an extremely bright future. He worked very hard and took his duties as a public servant very, very seriously.

With James, it was always about the community. He was dedicated to his community, having served as a police officer and district leader before being elected to the city council. One could always see the love he had for his community.

I met James through the Youth March Against Violence that he organized. He was only 41 years old and had served almost one term in the New York City Council at the time of his murder. But he had already made his mark. I will miss him greatly, as will the entire city and Nation, especially those of us from Brooklyn.

My sympathies and prayers go out to his family, to his staff, and friends. Farewell, James. You fought a good fight. Farewell, farewell.

A GRATEFUL NATION HONORS JEFF ALLEN AND SHANE HEATH, BRAVE IDAHO FIREFIGHTERS

(Mr. OTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn humility to remember Jeff Allen and Shane Heath, two young Idaho firefighters who were killed on the afternoon of July 22 while battling a wildfire in Idaho's Salmon-Challis National Forest.

The loss of life is always tragic. The deaths of people working to protect our lives, property, and resources are especially painful; and I extend my heartfelt condolences to the families of these brave Americans.

Those with the skills and the courage to defend us against the ravages of nature and the folly of man are among the best and the brightest, and we must do all we can as a Nation to ensure that their lives are not put at unnecessary risk and that their sacrifice is never forgotten.

My own son, John, once served with a hotshot first strike crew for the Sawtooth National Firefighting crews, so I can empathize with the fear and the pain that comes from incidences like this that these families now face.

Today we pause to remember that wildfire does more than just damage our economy and our environment. It kills. May the loved ones of Jeff Allen and Shane Heath take what comfort they can in the sure knowledge that a grateful Nation honors them today and all those who follow them into the forests on our behalf.

AMERICANS NEED TO KNOW THE TRUTH

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the death toll in Iraq of the United States military has now reached and will exceed the number of deaths in the Persian Gulf War. I stand again to acknowledge and respect the brave young men and women who stand for justice and freedom and fight for our beliefs in the war in Iraq. But as Ambassador Bremer has made his rounds in Washington, there is still a missing element: a lack of a plan.

It is now time for the administration to announce a collaborative and understandable plan for Iraq, for the aftermath of Iraq; a similar plan to the Marshall concept that brings together all of our allies, not whispering and suggesting that these allies are with us, but a pronounced plan where we know who are the ones that are sending troops and paying for the costs of those troops.

What is the humanitarian aid? What are the humanitarian groups that are there on the ground helping to rebuild Iraq?

And, yes, the American people must know the truth: An independent commission on the understanding or the question of intelligence and the paper trail that caused this administration to pronounce to the American public that we are about to be under imminent attack and that was the reason for the unilateral preemptive attack against Iraq.

All we need is the truth. All we need is facts. All we need is a collective, collaborative plan in order to ensure that there is a good exit strategy for Iraq and that the American people know that we are not going to be there 1 year, we are not going to be there 6 months, we may be there 4 or 5 years, and there may be continued loss of life.

The American people need to know the truth.

SUPPORT THE SCHOOL READINESS ACT OF 2003

(Mr. REHBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, today this body will consider the School Readiness Act of 2003, better known as Head Start.

Since its inception in 1965, America's taxpayers have funded the Head Start program which has served nearly 20 million low-income children and their families. Unfortunately, the lobbying against this reauthorization legislation has been intense and, in many cases, misleading.

When did we lose the desire in this country to make a program better? Despite the millions invested each year,